

Chualar Union Elementary School District

Grand Jury Responses

Grand Jury Recommendation	Board and Superintendent Responses
1. Board Members, School administrative officials, teachers, and staff participate in programs to heighten awareness of broader issues affecting Chualar and the educational system. These programs could take the form of weekend retreats or evening seminars with background information furnishing to participants to assist in understanding of existing problems and how to diminish their impact on the school.	<p>We agree that the Board Members had not been participating in programs to heighten awareness of broader issues affecting Chualar and the education system, but since August 2000, they have been attending conferences and seminars. We partially disagree on the participation of programs for the administrative officials, teachers and staff since several of them have been participating in various staff development activities in forms of weekend retreats, seminars and conferences.</p>
2. Participation in Title I's, Even Start, and Title II programs, as well as the adult programs for English language learners, be continued, with special attention given to instruction in kinder through second graders.	<p>We agree for the district to continue with the current participation in, Title I, CBET and the 21st Century Programs.</p> <p>Each of the programs listed above focuses on instructional services including academic adult programs for English language learners with special attention given to instruction in kinder through second grade.</p> <p>During the Fall 2000, the district submitted a Voluntary Integration Grant and request for state funding for services to English Language Learners. If funded these programs would enable the district to improve on instructional services for grades kinder through eight.</p> <p>We partially disagree for the district to continue participation in the Even Start Grant. The Title VII funding ended on June 30, 2000, and the Even Start program services will end on June 30, 2001. The district is not eligible to reapply for Title VII funds until the 2002-2003 school year. In addition, in order to re-apply for the Even Start Grant the district needs to provide matching funds that are currently unavailable.</p>

Grand Jury Recommendation	Board and Superintendent Responses
<p>3. Parents and Community members be encouraged to attend board meetings and participate as volunteers in School activities and on School committees with appropriate recognition given for services rendered.</p>	<p>We agree for the Parents and Community members be encouraged to attend board meetings, participate as volunteers in School activities and on School Committees with appropriate recognition given for services rendered. The district encourages their participation through the weekly school newsletter (Chualar Breezes), invitations at regularly scheduled school meetings and training sessions, one-on-one and staff personal invitations. The school currently has nineteen individuals who volunteer on a regular basis in classrooms, after-school programs, the Accelerated Reading Program, and Library program.</p> <p>School Committees – At October 2000 meetings, both the Migrant and School Site Council elected their officers according to required guidelines for state consolidated programs.</p> <p>The Parent Teacher Club held elections and elected their officers on December 2000.</p> <p>In June 2001, the district plans to recognize parent volunteers for their contributions and hours of dedication and service.</p>
<p>4. Reasons for Chualar students transferring to attend other schools be identified, parental concerns as to school safety and curriculum quality be addressed and appreciation for multicultural diversity in the community be encouraged.</p>	<p>We agree to identify the reasons for Chualar students transferring to attend other schools. During the month of April 2001, we surveyed the interdistrict requests as they arrived. The district asked parents to elaborate on reasons why they chose to have their children attend other districts. Based on the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 requests, the primary reason indicated on interdistrict transfer requests related to the need for childcare and extended day program services. The district will also inform parents of the current 21st Century After School Program Services available to all students at the school.</p> <p>If the district receives the extended funding for the VIP, then there will continue to be activities planned to address appreciation for multicultural diversity in the community.</p>
<p>5. Participation of Board members in training programs be facilitated in every way possible, including payments of all expenses and arrangements with employees to allow time away from jobs.</p>	<p>We agree for the Board members participation in training programs, and since August 2000, Board Members have participated in various staff development activities. In all cases the district has covered lodging, food and travel expenses. Board members have taken time off from work or their family to participate in training programs.</p>

Grand Jury Recommendation	Board and Superintendent Responses
<p>6. Lines of communication be clearly established between Board members and the District Superintendent/Principal to deal with daily concerns, special problems, and long term planning.</p>	<p>We agree to have lines of communication between Board members and the District Superintendent/Principal to deal with daily concerns, special problems, and long term planning. The following measures of communication have been established:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly written communications that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A calendar of activities for the next four weeks. • Information on incidents that occurred during the week. • Summary of meeting attended • Information on upcoming events or planned activities. 2. Ongoing individual meetings and phone calls with the board members on an as needed basis. Contacts have been made at the Superintendent's office and during non-office hours. 3. Availability of the superintendent at work or at home in the evenings or weekends. 4. The board approved a written school plan on March 8, 2001, for the next three years. Certificated, classified and parents were involved in the planning process, both the School Site Council and the School Board approved the plan. The Board plans to update its mission and goals during the fall 2001.
<p>7. Additional microphones be purchased, one for each Board member as well as speakers from the audience, and the best translation system consistent with CUESD's budget constraints be acquired.</p>	<p>We partially disagree to purchase microphones for each Board member as well as speakers from the audience since currently, the board have four microphones and the speakers are functioning well. Therefore, the board is not considering purchasing additional microphones until the 2001-2002 school year.</p> <p>We agree that the district needed to purchase the best translation system consistent with CEUSD's budget. Therefore, in February 2001, the district secured the translation system from Brahler ICS USA in Redwood City, California. At each board meeting the Financial, Administrative, Secretarial and Translator Services (F.A.S.T. Services) provide translation services for board members and individuals present at the meeting.</p>

Grand Jury Recommendation	Board and Superintendent Responses
<p>8. Meeting agendas provided for the public contain sufficient detail on the subjects to be discussed and be written in easy-to-understand language to allow for pertinent, constructive participation by members of the audience.</p>	<p>We agree that the meeting agendas provided for the public contain sufficient detail on the subjects to be discussed and be written in easy-to-understand language to allow for pertinent, constructive participation by members of the audience. For that reason, since November 9, 2000, Board meeting, the district modified its format of the board agenda to include additional details on each subject. In addition, at board meetings backup information is available for each topic presented on the board agenda. The packet is available to board members and representatives of each school committee.</p>
<p>9. While CUESD present needs to continue building confidence and cooperation within the district, the possibility for future consolidation with another district be explored.</p>	<p>We agree to explore the topic of the possibility for future consolidation with another district, and this was discussed at a special board meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2001. Nevertheless, both the Board and the Community showed no interest in exploring the possibility for future consolidated. The board prefers to maintain local control in decision making of education for kinder to eight grade students.</p>